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FOOD INFORMATION

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Farm Labor Campaign

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Questions and Answers About

Victory Farm Volunteers

of The U. S. Crop Corps

DRAIN on the farmer's manpower by industry's need for help to fashion the implements of war and by the military services to use these implements of war could make serious inroads upon the farmer's ability to grow war crops.

A PROGRAM being undertaken by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to help farmers obtain essential labor calls for, among other things, the recruitment and placing of 3,500,000 persons - men, women, and youth - in the U. S. Crop Corps.

THESE patriotic people -- some skilled, some partly skilled, some untrained -- will do the farm jobs for which they are qualified.

ONE segment -- the youth segment -- of the U. S. Crop Corps is called Victory Farm Volunteers. Another segment is the Women's Land Army. Another will be made up of city men who can take Victory vacations on the farm, or who can take time off to help farm people during crucial periods such as harvesttime.

THE FOLLOWING questions, to which replies are given, are those commonly asked about the contribution that youth can make in helping the farmer to solve some of his labor difficulties.

DISTRIBUTION - Sent to extension editors for primary information use in the States; and to War Boards and others for their information; coverage - all States

USE - Adaptation and use in news and feature stories, on radio, house organs, visual aids, etc., and as background information for writers.

1. How will the work city boys and girls can do on the farm this summer help to win the war?

If we, our soldiers, our war plant workers, and our allies are to continue getting enough to eat, our farmers have got to produce tons and tons of food. More than last year's record production. Thousands of the farmers' sons and hired help are in the Army and Navy or have gone to help make guns and planes and do other urgent jobs in war factories. Farm machinery, which saves labor, is also scarce. If the farmer, is to grow enough food, he must have help. Much of that help can and must be given by city boys and girls.

2. How can these boys and girls get work on a farm this summer?

Join the Victory Farm Volunteers. In most schools the Victory Farm Volunteers will be a part of the High School Victory Corps.

3. Who can join?

Any able-bodied boy or girl 14 years of age or older, not living on the farm and who is willing to help with farm work. Biggest demand will be for boys who are 16 and 17 years old and girls who are 18 and older.

4. What are the advantages of farm work?

Those chosen as Victory Farm Volunteers will have an opportunity to spend the summer doing war work. They will enjoy all the healthful advantages of farm work, get many new experiences, and learn first-hand how things grow, how people live and have a wholesome good time in the country. They will have to work, but they will be taught how to do the work and it will be important work.

5. What farm work would these young people have to do?

A large number of the Victory Farm Volunteers will be placed on farms for the summer season. There they will work and live with the farm families. They will do general farm work.

Many others will do specialized jobs in cultivating and harvesting fruits and vegetables. Most of these volunteers will live at home, but a few will live in camps or dormitories from which they will be transported daily to the farm.

Such jobs as planting, cultivating, weeding, hoeing, picking, building and repairing fences, gathering eggs, grading vegetables, keeping records, painting, spraying, and many others will be done.

6. How can a person join the Victory Farm Volunteers?

A boy should tell his high-school principal or school adviser that he wants to join. If there is no Victory Farm Volunteer program in his school or college, he can get information about it from the school officials, county agricultural extension agent, or the nearest office of the U. S. Employment Service.

7. How many Victory Farm Volunteers will be needed?

Best estimate is that a half million will be needed. They will be carefully chosen and trained to do their jobs safely and efficiently.

8. After a person is chosen, how will he get a farm to work on?

The county agricultural extension office with the help of local volunteer committees will be responsible for selecting a farm for each volunteer to work on.

9. Will all the Victory Farm Volunteers live on farms?

No. Some will live in Victory Farm Volunteer camps near where they work. Others will be able to find work close enough to home so they can live at home and go in groups to the farms where they will work.

10. Must one volunteer for the entire summer?

If a volunteer wants to live in a farm home and do general farm work, his help will most likely be needed for the entire summer, and he would have a much better chance of being chosen if he planned to work all summer. There will, however, be special jobs, such as thinning beets, picking fruit, and harvesting vegetables that he could help to do for a shorter period during the rush season.

11. What will a person be paid for his work?

He will be paid by the farmer for whom he works the same as other workers in the community doing the same kind and amount of work.

12. Who will pay transportation expenses to and from work, and living expenses?

Expenses will be paid by the volunteer out of what he earns, except where the farmer agrees to pay transportation and furnish room and board as a part of his pay. When a person lives in a Victory Farm Volunteer camp, usually the cost of meals, etc. will be divided equally between the workers occupying the camp.

13. Will recruits wear a Victory Farm Volunteer uniform?

No. Wear practical work clothes. Insignia, which will clearly identify a member of the Victory Farm Volunteers will be provided.

14. How are the Victory Farm Volunteers trained?

To familiarize the volunteers with farm life, the school adviser will arrange to have leading farmers, agricultural agents, vocational agriculture teachers, and others talk to the youth on different types of farm work and customs of farm life and the importance of food production to winning the war.

Wherever possible, they will be taken to nearby farms or schools of agriculture over week-ends for direct experience. Youth who worked on farms last year will give the new recruits some advice on what to expect from farm life. The volunteers will be taught how to get into good physical condition for their work, how to save time and energy, and to prevent accidents.

Most of the training in farm skills will be done on the farm after the volunteer goes to work.

15. How will the Victory Farm Volunteers be supervised?

Those who live on farms will be visited regularly by a representative of the county Extension Service office, who will see to it that the farmer and the youth are happy about the arrangement. There will be supervisors for each Victory Farm Volunteer camp, and some farmers will hire work supervisors for crews who do special jobs.

16. What will there be for a volunteer to do in the country when he is not working?

Special plans will be made for the entire community to welcome the city workers and make them a part of the social activities of the community. 4-H Clubs, Future Farmer chapters, and other community organizations will make special plans to welcome their city visitors and coworkers. Special recreational events will be planned for the Victory Farm Volunteer camps.

17. What is the farmer's responsibility to the Victory Farm Volunteers?

The farmer will first agree that he wants the help of the Victory Farm Volunteers. He will do that with the understanding that he will have to take special care to explain to the Victory Farm Volunteers the job he wants done, exactly how to do it, and the importance of doing it that way. The farmer will also be responsible for taking all necessary precaution for the safety and health of the youth while working for him. Many farmers will take out employee liability insurance to cover the workers. That will be done differently in different States in line with State insurance laws and State plans for insurance coverage of the Victory Farm Volunteers.

In hiring Victory Farm Volunteers, farmers will agree to standards of living and working conditions formulated by local committees in accord with the "Guides to Successful Employment of Nonfarm Youth in Wartime Agriculture," published by the U. S. Children's Bureau.

18. How can a farmer employ Victory Farm Volunteers on his farm?

Make his needs known as soon as possible to his county agricultural extension agent's office.

19. Where can further detailed information be obtained about the Victory Farm Volunteers program?

From the local school officials, the local county agricultural extension agent, or the Extension Service of the State agricultural college.

1. One of a series of questions and answers on the U. S. Crop Corps. Others deal with the general labor situation and local mobilization; the Women's Land Army; and making best use of labor on the farm.